

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please amend paragraphs [0005] to [0019] at pages 2-8 as follows:

[0005] In order to solve the above problem, the present invention according to ~~Claim 1~~ a first aspect is an absorbent article comprising: a liquid-permeable topsheet positioned at a surface that contacts with a human body; a non liquid-permeable backsheet positioned at a surface opposite to the topsheet; and an absorbent body provided between the topsheet and the backsheet; wherein: a three-dimensional gather is formed by a folding portion at which the backsheet is folded up to the topsheet side substantially along both side portions in a longitudinal direction of the absorbent body and a nonwoven fabric at least partially adhered to the folding portion; and the three-dimensional gather has a free end structured with the nonwoven fabric.

[0006] The present invention according to ~~Claim 2~~ another aspect is the absorbent article ~~according to Claim 1,~~ wherein the nonwoven fabric is adhered to a surface opposite to a surface of the folding portion that ~~face~~ faces the topsheet.

[0007] The present invention according to ~~Claim 3~~  
another aspect is the absorbent article ~~according to Claim~~  
~~2~~, wherein the nonwoven fabric is adhered to the backsheet  
from an adhesion starting point at an inner side in a width  
direction than a folding starting point of the folding  
portion.

[0008] The present invention according to ~~Claim 4~~  
another aspect is the absorbent article ~~according to Claim~~  
~~1~~, wherein the nonwoven fabric is adhered to a surface of  
the folding portion that ~~face~~ faces the topsheet.

[0009] The present invention according to ~~Claim 5~~  
another aspect is the absorbent article ~~according to~~  
~~Claim 1~~, wherein the nonwoven fabric is adhered to the  
topsheet.

[0010] The present invention according to ~~Claim 6~~  
another aspect is an absorbent article comprising: a  
liquid-permeable topsheet positioned at a surface that  
contacts with a human body; a non liquid-permeable backsheet  
positioned at a surface opposite to the topsheet; and an  
absorbent body provided between the topsheet and the  
backsheet; wherein: a three-dimensional gather is formed by  
covering both surfaces of a folding portion of the backsheet  
folded up to the topsheet side substantially along both side

portions in a longitudinal direction of the absorbent body, by extending the topsheet.

[0011] The present invention according to ~~Claim 7~~ another aspect is the absorbent article ~~according to Claim 6,~~ wherein a region of the topsheet positioned at an upper face of the absorbent body is liquid-permeable, while a region that covers the backsheet is less liquid-permeable than the region positioned at the upper face of the absorbent body.

[0012] The present invention according to ~~Claim 8~~ another aspect is an absorbent article comprising: a liquid-permeable topsheet positioned at a surface that contacts with a human body; a non liquid-permeable backsheet positioned at a surface opposite to the topsheet; an absorbent body provided between the topsheet and the backsheet; and a three-dimensional gather formed at the topsheet side to be raised at both side portions in a longitudinal direction of the absorbent body; wherein the absorbent article includes: a folding portion at which the backsheet is folded up to the topsheet side substantially along both side portions in the longitudinal direction of the absorbent body; an attachment portion at which a part of the folding portion is adhered to both side portions in the longitudinal direction of the topsheet; and an adhesion

section at which the attachment portion is folded up to the topsheet side and is adhered to the topsheet; wherein the folding portion ~~constitute~~ constitutes at least a part of the three-dimensional gather.

[0013] The present invention according to ~~Claim 9~~ another aspect is the absorbent article ~~according to Claim 9~~, wherein the three-dimensional gather is composed of the folding portion and a non liquid-permeable nonwoven fabric at least partially adhered to the folding portion, and the three-dimensional gather has a free end structured with the non liquid-permeable nonwoven fabric.

[0014] The present invention according to ~~Claim 10~~ another aspect is the absorbent article ~~according to Claim 9~~, wherein the non liquid-permeable nonwoven fabric is adhered to a surface opposite to a surface of the folding portion that ~~face~~ faces the topsheet.

[0015] The present invention according to ~~Claim 11~~ another aspect is the absorbent article ~~according to Claim 10~~, wherein the non liquid-permeable nonwoven fabric is adhered to the backsheet from an adhesion starting point at an inner side in a width direction than a folding starting point of the folding portion.

[0016] The present invention according to ~~Claim 12~~ another aspect is the absorbent article ~~according to Claim~~

9, wherein: the backsheet includes a ramie nonwoven fabric; and the non liquid-permeable nonwoven fabric is adhered to a surface of the folding portion that ~~face~~ faces the topsheet.

[0017] The present invention according to ~~Claim 13~~ another aspect is an absorbent article comprising: a liquid-permeable topsheet positioned at a surface that contacts with a human body; a non liquid-permeable backsheet positioned at a surface opposite to the topsheet; an absorbent body provided between the topsheet and the backsheet; and a three-dimensional gather formed at the topsheet side to be raised at both side portions in a longitudinal direction of the absorbent body, wherein: the three-dimensional gather is formed by covering both surfaces of a folding portion of the backsheet folded up to the topsheet side substantially along both side portions in the longitudinal direction of the absorbent body, by extending the topsheet; and an adhesion portion is formed in a vicinity of a folding starting point of the folding portion substantially along both side portions in the longitudinal direction of the absorbent body, by folding up the topsheet to the topsheet side and adhering the topsheets to each other.

[0018] The present invention according to ~~Claim 14~~ another aspect is the absorbent article ~~according to Claim~~

13, wherein a region of the topsheet positioned at an upper face of the absorbent body is liquid-permeable, while a region that covers the backsheet is non liquid-permeable.

[0019] The present invention according to ~~Claim 15~~ another aspect is an inner absorbent article comprising: a liquid-permeable topsheet positioned at a surface that contacts with a human body; a non liquid-permeable backsheet positioned at a surface opposite to the topsheet; and an absorbent body provided between the topsheet and the backsheet, wherein: a three-dimensional gather is formed by a folding portion at which the backsheet is folded up to the topsheet side substantially along both side portions in a longitudinal direction of the absorbent body, and a nonwoven fabric that is adhered to a surface opposite to a surface of the folding portion that ~~face~~ faces the topsheet and is also adhered to the backsheet from an inner side in a width direction of a folding starting point of the folding portion as an adhesion starting point; and the three-dimensional gather has a free end structured with the nonwoven fabric.

Please amend paragraphs [0021] to [0028] at pages 8-12 as follows:

[0021] The present invention according to ~~Claim 16~~ another aspect is an inner absorbent article comprising: a liquid-permeable topsheet positioned at a surface that contacts with a human body; a non liquid-permeable backsheet positioned at a surface opposite to the topsheet; and an absorbent body provided between the topsheet and the backsheet, wherein: a three-dimensional gather is formed by a folding portion at which the backsheet is folded up to the topsheet side substantially along both side portions in a longitudinal direction of the absorbent body and a nonwoven fabric in which one end portion in the longitudinal direction is adhered to a surface of the folding portion that ~~face~~ faces the topsheet and the other end portion in the longitudinal direction is adhered to the topsheet; and the three-dimensional gather has a free end structured with the nonwoven fabric.

[0022] The present invention according to ~~Claim 17~~ another aspect is the absorbent article ~~according to Claim 16,~~ wherein the nonwoven fabric is folded up and the three-dimensional gather has a free end as a folding starting point of the nonwoven fabric.

[0023] The present invention according to ~~Claim 18~~  
another aspect is an inner absorbent article comprising: a liquid-permeable topsheet positioned at a surface that contacts with a human body; a non liquid-permeable backsheet positioned at a surface opposite to the topsheet; and an absorbent body provided between the topsheet and the backsheet, wherein: a three-dimensional gather is provided by covering both surfaces of a folding portion of the backsheet folded up to the topsheet side substantially along both side portions in a longitudinal direction of the absorbent body, by extending the topsheet.

[0024] The present invention according to ~~Claim 19~~  
another aspect is the inner absorbent article ~~according to any one of Claims 15 to 18,~~ wherein the folding portion of the backsheet has a positioning mark in the longitudinal direction.

[0025] The present invention according to ~~Claim 20~~  
another aspect is the inner absorbent article ~~according to any one of Claims 15 to 19,~~ wherein an interspace is provided between the topsheet and the backsheet along the longitudinal direction of both side portions in the longitudinal direction of the absorbent body.

[0026] The present invention according to ~~Claim 21~~  
another aspect is an inner absorbent article, comprising: a



liquid-permeable topsheet positioned at a surface that contacts with a human body; a non liquid-permeable backsheet positioned at a surface opposite to the topsheet; an absorbent body provided between the topsheet and the backsheet; and a three-dimensional gather formed at the topsheet side to be raised at both side portions in a longitudinal direction of the absorbent body, wherein the inner absorbent article includes: a folding portion at which the backsheet is folded up to the topsheet side substantially along both side portions in the longitudinal direction of the absorbent body; an attachment portion at which a part of the folding portion is adhered to both side portions in the longitudinal direction of the topsheet; and an adhesion section at which the attachment portion is folded up to the topsheet side and is adhered to the topsheet, wherein the folding portion constitutes at least a part of the three-dimensional gather.

[0027] The present invention according to ~~Claim 22~~ another aspect is an inner absorbent article, comprising: a liquid-permeable topsheet positioned at a surface that contacts with a human body; a non liquid-permeable backsheet positioned at a surface opposite to the topsheet; an absorbent body provided between the topsheet and the backsheet; and a three-dimensional gather formed at the

topsheet side to be raised at both side portions in a longitudinal direction of the absorbent body, wherein: the three-dimensional gather is formed by covering both surfaces of a folding portion of the backsheet folded up to the topsheet side substantially along both side portions in the longitudinal direction of the absorbent body, by extending the topsheet; an adhesion portion is formed in a vicinity of a folding starting point of the folding portion substantially along both side portions in the longitudinal direction of the absorbent body, by folding up the topsheet to the topsheet side and adhering the topsheets to each other.

[0028] According to another aspect of the present invention ~~according to Claim 1~~, the backsheet is folded up to the topsheet. Thus, the backsheet covers the absorbent body so as to cover from the bottom face of the absorbent body to the side faces and a part of the upper face. This not only enables to compose the root portion of the three-dimensional gather by the backsheet made of a non liquid-permeable sheet in a three-dimensional manner, but also enables to provide the three-dimensional gather with a free end made of a nonwoven fabric.

Please amend the paragraph at page 13, line 22, to page 14, line 3 as follows:

[0031] According to another aspect of the present invention ~~of Claim 2, the same effect as the invention according to Claim 1 can be of course obtained. In particular,~~ a skin contact surface of the folding portion of the folded backsheet that is a surface opposite to a face opposed to topsheet is adhered with a nonwoven fabric, thus preventing the folding portion from having a contact with a human body.

Please amend the paragraphs at page 14, line 7 to page 15, line 5 as follows:

[0032] According to another aspect of the present invention ~~of Claim 3, the same effect as the invention according to Claim 2 can be of course obtained. In particular,~~ since a nonwoven fabric is adhered to the backsheet from an inner side in the width direction of the folding starting point of the folding portion as an adhesion starting point, side faces of the absorbent body can also be covered by the nonwoven fabric. This not only improves the sense of use more securely, but also reduces skin troubles.

[0033] According to another aspect of the present invention ~~of Claim 4, the same effect as the invention according to Claim 1 can be of course obtained. In particular,~~ the backsheet is provided with clothlikeness. Thus, even when the backsheet is used as a skin contact surface, a soft sense of use can be provided to a user.

[0034] According to another aspect of the present invention ~~of Claim 5, the same effect as the invention according to Claim 1 can be of course obtained. Since~~ since a nonwoven fabric is adhered to both of the backsheet and the topsheet, the nonwoven fabric can be more securely fixed to the absorbent article and the three-dimensional gather is reinforced, thus effectiveness in leakage prevention is high.

Please amend the paragraph at page 15, lines 10-14 as follows:

[0035] According to another aspect of the present invention ~~of Claim 6,~~ the three-dimensional gather is composed of the backsheet and the topsheet that covers both surfaces of the folding portion of the backsheet.

Please amend the paragraph at page 16, lines 1-9 as follows:

[0036] According to another aspect of the present invention ~~of Claim 7, the same effect as the invention according to Claim 6 can be of course obtained. In particular,~~ since the three-dimensional gather is composed of the non liquid-permeable backsheet and a region of the topsheet that is less liquid-permeable than a region positioned at the upper face of the absorbent body, the oozing of body fluid can be more securely prevented.

Please amend the paragraph at page 16, lines 12-18 as follows:

[0037] According to another aspect of the present invention ~~of Claim 8,~~ the backsheet is folded up to the topsheet and the topsheet is adhered to the folding portion to form an attachment portion. This attachment portion is adhered to the topsheet. As a result, a rising edge as a root portion of the three-dimensional gather can be fixed to the topsheet.

Please amend the paragraph at page 18, lines 1-8 as follows:

[0039] According to another aspect of the present invention of Claim 9, ~~the same effect as the invention according to Claim 8~~ can be of course obtained. In particular, not only ~~that is~~ the three-dimensional gather is composed of two layers of the backsheet and the non liquid-permeable nonwoven fabric, but the three-dimensional gather also has a free end made of a non liquid-permeable nonwoven fabric.

Please amend the paragraph at page 18, lines 14-21 as follows:

[0040] According to another aspect of the present invention of Claim 10, ~~the same effect as the invention according to Claim 9~~ can be of course obtained. In particular, since the skin contact surface of the folding portion is adhered with a non liquid-permeable nonwoven fabric, the backsheet that is a folding portion is prevented from having a direct contact with a human body.

Please amend the paragraph at page 18, line 25, to page 19, line 6 as follows:

[0041] According to another aspect of the present invention ~~of Claim 11, the same effect as the invention according to Claim 10 can be of course obtained. In particular,~~ the non liquid-permeable nonwoven fabric is adhered to the backsheet at an inner side in the width direction of the folding starting point of the folding portion as an adhesion starting point.

Please amend the paragraph at page 19, lines 12-16 as follows:

[0042] According to another aspect of the present invention ~~of Claim 12, the same effect as the invention according to Claim 9 can be of course obtained. In particular,~~ the backsheet is provided with clothlikeness.

Please amend the paragraph at page 19, lines 21-25 as follows:

[0043] According to another aspect of the present invention ~~of Claim 13, the three-dimensional gather is~~

composed of the backsheet and the topsheet covering both surfaces of the folding portion of the backsheet.

Please amend the paragraph at page 21, lines 1-6 as follows:

[0044] According to another aspect of the present invention ~~of Claim 14, the same effect as the invention according to Claim 13 can be of course obtained. In particular,~~ the three-dimensional gather is composed of a non liquid-permeable backsheet and a ~~not~~ non liquid-permeable topsheet.

Please amend the paragraph at page 21, lines 12-21 as follows:

[0045] According to another aspect of the present invention ~~of Claim 15,~~ the backsheet folded up to the topsheet allows the backsheet to cover the absorbent body so as to cover from the bottom face of the absorbent body to side faces and a part of the upper face. This not only allows the root portion of the three-dimensional gather to be composed of the backsheet that is a non liquid-permeable sheet in a three-dimensional manner, but also allows the



free end of the three-dimensional gather to be structured with a nonwoven fabric.

Please amend the paragraph at page 23, lines 7-13 as follows:

[0048] According to another aspect of the present invention ~~of Claim 16~~, since a nonwoven fabric is adhered to both of the backsheet and the topsheet, the nonwoven fabric can be more securely fixed to the absorbent article, and the three-dimensional gather is reinforced, thus effectiveness in leakage prevention is high.

Please amend the paragraphs at page 24, lines 4-16 as follows:

[0049] According to another aspect of the present invention ~~of Claim 17, the same effect as the invention according to Claim 16 can be of course obtained. Since~~ since the free end of the three-dimensional gather is formed from the folding starting point of a nonwoven fabric, stimulation to skin can be suppressed more effectively. This not only improves the sense of use but also suppress skin troubles further.

[0050] According to another aspect of the present invention ~~of Claim 10~~, the three-dimensional gather is composed of the backsheet and the topsheet that covers both surfaces of the folding portion of the backsheet.

Please amend the paragraph at page 25, lines 4-12 as follows:

[0051] According to another aspect of the present invention ~~of Claim 19, the same effect as the invention according to any one of Claims 15 to 18 can be of course obtained. Furthermore~~, the folding portion of the backsheet includes a positioning mark in the longitudinal direction-corresponding to the positioning mark in the longitudinal direction provided on a diaper or a diaper external member, to which the inner absorbent article is attached.

Please amend the paragraph at page 25, lines 20-26 as follows:

[0052] According to another aspect of the present invention ~~of Claim 20, the same effect as the invention according to any one of Claims 15 to 19 can be of course obtained. Along~~ , along both side portions in the

longitudinal direction of the absorbent body, an interspace is provided between the topsheet and the backsheet.

Please amend the paragraph at page 26, lines 5-11 as follows:

[0053] According to another aspect of the present invention ~~of Claim 21~~, the backsheet is folded up to the topsheet side, and the topsheet is adhered to the folding portion to form an attachment portion. This attachment portion is adhered to the topsheet. As a result, a rising edge as the root portion of the three-dimensional gather is fixed to the topsheet.

And please amend the paragraph at page 27, lines 21-25 as follows:

[0055] According to another aspect of the present invention ~~of Claim 22~~, the three-dimensional gather is composed of the backsheet and the topsheet that covers both surfaces of the folding portion of the backsheet.